

HF Happenings

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the week of 29 February 2016

The Leap Year Challenge

Only one log was received for the Leap Year Challenge! Thank you and congratulations to Johan van Aarde, ZS2I, who wins the prize of a SARL subscription for 2016/2017.



No mobile phone signals

The SA Armour Museum (at the School of Armour) spent four days at Sandstone Estates near Ficksburg. We arrived on Monday 29 February to do maintenance on the military vehicles kept at Sandstone - checking oils, water, batteries, lights, etc. Starting the vehicles and going on a short maintenance run. However, it was not work all the time, we also had a chance to catch black bass and just relax!

There is one problem - signals for the mobile phones are missing (Cell C) or the providers from Lesotho are picked up and roaming is expensive. The HQ was about 1,6 km from the border between ZS and 7P8.

Then on Thursday after completing our work, Carina and I headed for Shumba Valley Farm while my colleagues headed back to Bloemfontein. Shumba is about 10 km south of Fouriesburg and has chalets and a caravan park. Moreover, NO mobile phone signals - so peaceful.

Results of the SARL National Field Day

The committee received 14 logs and 3 check logs for the February leg of the National Field Day. As mentioned in HF Happenings 693 under the PEARS VHF/UHF Contest results - the old problem persists and that is the reluctance of many participants to make the effort to submit log sheets

Thank you to those Clubs and individuals who did submit a log. Unfortunately two of the logs had to be completely re-scored - tampering with the layout and formulae in the Excel spreadsheet. In addition, one log can in two separate spreadsheets. Guys and girls, just fill in the date, time, call sign, band, mode, your class of entry, your provincial abbreviation, the received class of entry and the received provincial abbreviation. The spreadsheet will do the calculations!

Class A - multi-operator

- 1st West Rand ARC, ZS6WR, 136 80 points
- 2nd Highway ARC, ZS5HAM, 111 720 points
- 3rd Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA, 83 640 points
- 4th Welkom ARC, ZS4WRC, 82 200 points
- 5th Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK, 28 512 points
- 6th Secunda ARC, ZS6SRC, 25 152 points
- 7th Zululand ARC, ZS5ZLB, 24 64 points
- 8th Sandton ARC, ZS6STN, 18 144 points
- 9th Centurion ARC, ZS6CEN, 2 400 points



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Class B - multi-operator, QRP

No entry

Class C - Single Operator

1st Mitchell Mynhaart, ZS6YH, 7 120 points

Class D - Single operator, QRP

1st Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ, 54 594 points

Class E - Ultra-light portable

No entry

Class F - General stations

1st East Rand Branch, ZS6ERB, 12 264 points

2nd Stephan van Jaarsveldt, ZS6SVJ, 1 200 points

3rd Roy Walsh, ZS3RW, 680 points

Check logs

Joop Hesp, ZS6JP

Bruce Dunn, ZS5XT

Durban ARC, ZS5D

March

5 and 6 - Buffalo City Hobby and Craft Expo, East London

6 - SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest

18 - All schools close

19 and 20 - SARL VHF/UHF Field Day

20 - Autumn equinox, Palm Sunday

21 - Human Rights Day

22 - Closing date for April Radio ZS articles; World

Water Day

23 - World Meteorological Day

24 - Purim

25 - Good Friday

26 - Two Oceans Marathon

27 - Easter Sunday

28 - Easter Monday / Family Day

Results of the 2015 CQ WW RTTY Contest

The results of the 2015 CQ WW RTTY Contest have been published in the March 2016 issue of CQ magazine

All Band, low power

1st Geoff Levey, ZS6C, 217 236 points

2nd Johan van Aarde, ZS2I, 63 875 points

3rd Janusz Danilowicz, ZS1BHJ, 45 588 points

4th Dennis Green, ZS4BS, 1 690 points

14 MHz, low power

Stephan van Jaarsveldt, ZS6SVJ, 30 points

All band, Assisted, low power

Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN, 536 766 points

African DX



Swaziland, 3DA. Arkady, UA4CC, and Arunas, LY2IJ will be active as 3DA0CC and 3DA0IJ, respectively, from Mozambique between 8 and 15 March. Activity will be on the HF bands but with focus on the low bands. QSL 3DA0CC via UA4CC, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW. QSL 3DA0IJ via LY2IJ, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW.

Ethiopia, ET. The Ukrainian operators continue to be active as ET7L from the INSA Radio Club in Mekanisa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Activity will be limited due to their work duties, but they are expected to be active until 12 April. Most of their activity has been on 30, 17, 15 and 12 me-

tres using CW and SSB, but the operators are now active on 160, 80 and 40 metres. The operators are members of UT7L Contest Club (Yarik, UW7LL and Andy, UR4LRQ). Logs are being uploaded daily on Clublog's OQRS. Upload to LoTW will be after the end of the operation. QSL Manager is USOLW. The Web site is now up and running with updates and log search at <http://et7l.dxer.com.ua>

Tunisia, TS2 - Special Event. Look for special event station TS2G to be active during the International Festival of Saharan Ksour of Tataouine between 17 and 20 March. QSL via direct or by the Bureau.

Uganda, 5X. Alan, G3XAQ, returns to Uganda for another operation as 5X1XA. He will be active holiday-style from 4 to 16 March and during the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (BERU) on CW. He has picked out a new location and hopes for less QRM. QSL via G3SWH.

Botswana, A2. Nobby, GOVJG, Nick, G4FAL, Giles, MOTGV, Tony, G4LDL, and Edd, GMOWED, plan to operate between 13 and 19 April as A25UK on HF (SSB, CW and RTTY). QSL via MOOXO, ClubLog OQRS. <http://www.a25uk.com/>

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Equatorial Guinea, 3C. Ken, LA7GIA, will be active as 3C7GIA from Malabo Island (AF-010) between 4 and 13 March. Operations will be on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. There is a slight chance for 80 m depending on conditions. Equipment will be a TS-480SAT with an Ameritron ALS 500m into a Mosley Mini 32 ASP (2 element beam 20, 15 and 10 m), Mosley TW 22 M (2-element beam 17 and 12 m), Hygain AV640 and G5RV 80 to 10 m wire antennas (backup). QSL via LA7GIA direct ONLY (SAE + 3 USDs). Please note, NO IRC, NO Bureau QSL. Bureau QSL will not be answered. For updates, check <http://la7gia.com/3c7gia/index.html>. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KennethOpskar>

Sao Tome and Principe, S9. Bruno, HB9BEI, will be active as S9BK from Sao Tome (AF-023) until 25 March. However, his operation will be delayed possibly until sometime Monday or Tuesday because his luggage did not arrive the same time he did (expected sometime on Sunday 28 March). Look for him to travel to Principe (AF-044) between 7 and 12 March. Activity from both islands will be holiday style on 40 - 10 metres using mainly SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

Indian Ocean Hamfest? Michele, 5R8UI, has announced that he is organizing a "hamfest" on Nosy Be Island in Madagascar for the Indian Ocean's radio amateurs as well as all foreigners too. He planning to organize the meeting between 10 and 11 September 2016 and offers the possibility to stay a little longer to discover Nosy Be Island and the archipelago. Nosy Be Island is the most famous tourist location in Madagascar, with 4 star hotels. The Mediterranean DX Club (MDXC) www.mdxc.org is a partner of Indian Ocean Hamfest. The DxCoffee www.dxcffee.com and Amateur Radio Society <http://arsitalia.it/> will support the event. Stay tuned for more updates. For more details/support/sponsoring, contact Michele at ik5zui@yahoo.it

Local Contests

South African Radio League Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest

This SSB contest, which takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Sunday 6 March 2016, is open to all Radio Amateurs in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Marion Island and South African Antarctica. Only contacts with these areas will count. It is a phone contest in the band segments 7 063 to 7 100 kHz and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz.

You can participate as a single operator stationary mobile station, a single operator portable station, a multi-operator portable station or a single operator base station. Antennas are limited to antennas with less than unity gain relative to a dipole. Stationary Mobile stations shall use antennas that rely solely on their vehicles for support and shall not exceed a height of 5 metres above ground. Portable station antennas may not be erected and installed before the day of the contest and no permanent manmade structure may be used to either house equipment or for antenna supports. Stationary Mobile and Portable stations shall operate from the same site for the duration of the contest and all power used shall comply with the requirements for Field Stations in the general rules.

The exchange is a signal report followed by a three-figure number as follows - Category a: Starting with 201 for the first contact; Category b: Starting with 401 for the first contact; Category c: Starting with 601 for the first contact; Category d: Starting with 801 for the first contact and Non-participants start with 001 for the first contact

Scoring consists of points accumulated from all contacts, multiplied by a multiplier. Contact with a station in - Category a, b and c in own area 3 points; Category a, b and c in another area 4 points; Category d or non-participant in own area 1 point and Category d or non-participant in another area 2 points. Areas are as defined in the following list - Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7 (eastern group): 3DA, 7P, C9, Z2, ZS8 and Area 8 (western group): A2, V5, ZS7

The multiplier consists of the number of call areas worked, multiplied by a power multiplier. The power multiplier is 2 for an output power of over 50 W PEP, and 3 for an output power of less than 50 W PEP.

Log sheets must be submitted by 13 March 2016 by e-mail to contest@peham.co.za or to Hamnet Eastern Cape, Al Akers, ZS2U, 53 Clarence Street, Westering, Port Elizabeth, 6025

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter